



Children’s Future Food Inquiry Meeting Notes

**Stakeholder Meeting, London, England
Wednesday 9 May 2018, 10.00am – 12.00pm**

Introduction

The Parliamentary Inquiry into Children’s Future Food has the support of a cross party group of 14 parliamentarians, two All Party Parliamentary Groups and the Children’s Commissioners in all four UK nations. This support reflects the growing concern across the UK of the impacts of poverty on the diets, health, development and wellbeing of children. Until now children’s own experiences and perspectives have been largely absent from policy thinking and political discourse about food and poverty. The Inquiry will address this critical gap.

The Inquiry will build a national consensus on what needs to be done to prevent children’s food insecurity and to ensure their food is both nourishing and sets them up for a healthy and productive future.

This meeting of Inquiry stakeholders took place in England, hosted by Alison Garnham, Child Poverty Action Group and Sam Royston from The Children’s Society.

Attendees

First name	Second name	organisation
Alison	Garnham	Child Poverty Action Group
Amanda	Grant	Children’s food writer
Andres	Mejia Acosta	King’s College London
Anna	Taylor	Food Foundation
Annie	Connolly	Leeds University
Arianna	Bastianini	School Food Matters
Eleanor	Wilton	Alexandra Rose
Estelle	Mackay	Public Health Nutritionist
Helen	Crawley	First Steps Nutrition
Jenny	Rosborough	Jamie Oliver
Jo	Ralling	Food Foundation
Jonathan	Pauling	Alexandra Rose
Josh	Abey	Children’s Commissioner
Karen	Morris	Reg & Co
Katherine	Richards	Save the Children
Kawther	Hashem	Action on Sugar

Laurice	Edwards	Entia Ltd
Lindsay	Graham	CFFI
Maggie	Morgan	Fixers
Mia	Hadfield-Spoor	Trussell Trust
Myles	Bremner	Bremner Consulting Ltd
Pandora	Haydon	Food Foundation
Rachel	Alcock	Oxfam
Rosie	Oglesby	Feeding Britain
Sagar	Sumaria	So Ethical Media
Sam	Royston	The Children's Society
Tara	Whitehorn	Department for Education, CFFI committee member
Thuy	Nguyen	Scaling Up Nutrition

WELCOME

Anna Taylor, Food Foundation

Briefing on the plans for the Inquiry

Anna Taylor, The Food Foundation

- Looking at this issue as a rights issue is important and the reports of children being afraid of school holidays is very concerning
- Food is fundamental to health, wellbeing and development, and unless we get policy right on children's food we are failing our children
- We are putting children at the heart of this Inquiry and ensuring it is solution led
- The Inquiry can help to link people together, help local networks to form and help stimulate the scaling up of good ideas and evidence-based approaches
- Essential that the newsletters on the Inquiry are a collaborative effort including blogs, news and events around the country
- The Inquiry outcomes will be heavily influenced by the young people who are involved and so we don't yet know what policy concerns might be highlighted.

PowerPoint Slides

Consultation and engagement with children and young people – summary of activity to date

Maggie Morgan, Fixers

- Fixers has begun the work to engage with and listen to children across the UK
- The work began in Scotland; some is already underway in Wales and Northern Ireland, and eventually the focus will shift to London and the South East (with a view to achieving comprehensive coverage of all four countries)
- Fixers will be delivering at least 13 focus groups and workshops comprised of school age children (i.e. up to the age of 16)
- First focus group was undertaken in Scotland with strong support from the Children's Commissioner. Fixers worked with a group of around 40 children between 11 and 14. The work was focused in Edinburgh and Glasgow: some of the children were known to each other, some weren't. The sessions raised lots of issues, often around the children's health. They were candid about their experiences and the experiences of those around them – they showed a keen interest in their peers' wellbeing and talked positively about the support they

received from their teachers. They felt strongly that everyone would benefit from destigmatising the subject of food poverty, which would mean groups of friends could talk openly about the issue and provide support for those experiencing it. Many children raised food banks entirely unprompted, and were extremely knowledgeable and positive about them. Some suggestions were made as to practical solutions – doctors providing food prescriptions, for example.

- The group in Prestatyn, Wales was consistent with the group in Scotland in terms of size, age and issues raised. Teachers were present.
- Northern Ireland's sessions are upcoming, and are promising to introduce a socially and ethnically diverse group of interviewees.
- Fixers endeavour not to be prescriptive in guiding the focus groups in order to let each group develop its own flavour. They do encourage them to come up with practical solutions that they think might help, and that we could go out and change tomorrow
- Anna noted that the Inquiry was named the 'Children's Future Food Inquiry' to keep the approach broad. Although the Inquiry will focus on children who are deprived, they'll be encouraged to talk more holistically about their food experience as a whole (rather than just their experience of food insecurity).

Opportunities to link the Inquiry process into policy process

Roundtable discussions

- Better awareness of food insecurity in general is needed
- Publication of UN/FAO food insecurity data
- Child Obesity Inquiry and the new Childhood Obesity Plan
- Annual progress report on the first year of the sugar reduction programme is imminent, and it's likely there will be subsequent reports
- Draft Agriculture Bill – opportunities to look at food more holistically rather than just at farming, especially as it relates to procurement
- Periodic reviews of the UK implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Feeding Britain is part of a network that runs 'hunger watch', which examines the issues driving food poverty each month. The info is fed back to their political trustees – could be a useful resource
- In 2020 the Japanese government will host a growth summit and want it to focus on domestic issues
- The 'Healthy Start' benefit is not being taken up nearly enough. It's available for low income families with children under the age of four, and supplies vouchers for fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, as well as formula and cow's milk. A circulating white paper is recommending that the voucher increase in value and that the system be digitised. Scotland has already stretched the commitment to a wider range of produce and has digitised the programme.
- The current Healthy Rating scheme doesn't include secondary schools. It was a mechanism for Ofsted to examine health and wellbeing standards. Chapter two is in development.
- Healthy Pupil Capital Fund implementation should cover all of the following: updating school food standards, compliance monitoring, health rating etc. TDFE subsequently clarified this situation: *We have utilised existing school funding mechanisms to distribute the Healthy Pupils Capital Fund (HPCF) to schools, academies and sixth-form colleges. Single and small academy trusts were able to bid for HPCF through the Condition Improvement Fund for 2018-19. On 29th March we published the outcome of this bidding round in a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet includes both successful Condition Improvement Fund projects and those for the HPCF. Projects which relate to health and wellbeing facilities (funded through either HPCF or*

Condition Improvement Fund) have been flagged in the spreadsheet. All of the HPCF allocated through this route are for facilities relating to health and wellbeing, including kitchens, playgrounds, sports halls, swimming pools, changing rooms and dining facilities.

- DFE's Healthy Activities and Food fund supplies £2 million of funding for activities during the summer holidays – breakfast clubs, social inclusion (i.e. a holistic approach). Pilots will be underway from December next year – could be a useful pool of people to feed into the CFFI portal
- Local food strategies - London Food Strategy launched on Friday 11th May and is out for consultation until 5th July. Food Strategies will also be published in other cities including Leeds
- Centre for Responsible Credit – Michael Sheen is working on ending high cost credits, and is talking to parents about the difficulty of affording lunch for children.
- Ongoing welfare reform with regards to universal credit could provide useful opportunities to talk about food insecurity in the media.

Sources of evidence:

- Holiday clubs
- Rebecca O'Connell's work: Food and Families in Hard Times
- MPs' reports from constituency engagement
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust - repeating destitution in the UK report
- Lots of ongoing research into emergency provision.

Opportunities to feed into the Inquiry: mobilisation of networks

Request for ideas regarding how to reach parties who might not otherwise hear about the Inquiry with a view to building the broadest possible stakeholder database. Examples from the Scotland stakeholder meeting include migrant groups, military families, young carers, travelling families and children affected by disabilities.

The Inquiry will circulate a table of recommendations so that stakeholders can populate the list with names and contact details for those who might be able to help.

- Feed Britain will feed back to their network and recommend the Inquiry be raised at existing events run with children
- Scotland has been running free school meal days with the US for a while, which connects children via Skype sessions and include a variety of activities. Last year 67 countries participated.
- Magic Breakfast
- Unicef
- Children's Food Campaign
- CAB – local networks
- Homelessness organisations
- Global Citizen (for international networks)
- UK Girl Guides and Scouts
- London Youth Network
- The Trussell Trust will take the inquiry back to its board and area managers
- The Media Trust, Newsround
- Youth action campaign - #iwill Step Up To Serve
- Young Farmers for accessing rural poverty

- Food and Farming Strategy
- Chatham House's livestock and nutrition work
- London Child Poverty Alliance
- End Child Poverty Coalition
- NUF
- Teachers unions
- School and academy chains
- Local authorities for access to cared for children
- Net Mums and Mumsnet
- Influential campaigners aligned with this messaging e.g. Jack Monroe
- Theatre groups who work with children
- PHE, DH
- Action on Sugar could help with social media outreach
- Ambulance and fire service staff who work in vulnerable households
- Rotary clubs
- Fuel for Schools – Nathan Atkinson via Lindsay Graham
- Period Poverty campaign – (in Leeds) Tina Lesley via Lindsay Graham
- British Dietetics Association
- One Young World
- Directors of public health via the UK Health Forum
- Children's Food Trust's parents jury
- Young Mind
- Kelloggs/Greggs/General Mills who are supporting breakfast clubs
- Health visitors
- Sports – London Youth Games, Premiership and FA youth groups. Everton supports its local foodbank
- Techfugees
- Children's commissioner – connections with children's service directors around the country; connections with children of military personnel
- Mayors – Andy Burnham, Dan Jarvis
- Youth Parliament
- Celebrities that work on mental health and poverty – Stormzy, Professor Green
- Blue Peter, CBBC, CBeebies
- Country File (John Craven)– access to rural poverty
- Victoria Derbyshire, Good Morning Britain
- Orgs that encourage kids to express themselves - Young Writers Association, Poetry Society (via Rachel from Oxfam)
- The Prince's Trust, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- Brilliant Club – works with young people to get them to university
- Age UK - grandparents of children who might have issues
- Midwives
- School Food Plan Alliance
- Guys and St Thomas'
- Bumps – groups of young mothers
- Children's radio
- The Week – junior publication
- Koestler Trust and Prisons Mission for access to children in prison.

Early ideas for Inquiry launch

Roundtable discussions:

- College garden at Westminster Abbey – suitable location for a market of some sort
- Involve celebrity chefs
- Southbank, Royal Festival Hall
- Involve the Junior Master Chef finalists
- Link ongoing events at separate locations via live feeds
- Meal-based event
- ‘No VIPs’ event
- Musical performance
- Involve delegations from around the country, perhaps under mayoral leadership
- Deliver collective and immediate call to action
- Include youth representation; the children who took part in the research
- Is one event in each country enough?
- Have children design the event and invite politicians to meet and interact with them
- Brainchild Festival
- Consider practicalities of persuading MPs to leave Westminster – possibly separate MPs event from the rest of the groups?
- Experience-based event – children create a meal that reflects how they’d like food to look in the future
- Must be Instagrammable
- Must be empowering for children and young people.

Close

